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Gen. Taylor Rated Ideal Military Aide

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WASHINGTON—President John F. Kennedy has filled a yawning gap in his White House administrative setup by appointing former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor as his military assistant.

Taylor will operate at a higher level than his rather unobtrusive title would indicate. He will, in fact, be Kennedy's top co-ordinator of all intelligence reports, a top strategist in cold war policy-making, and a top expert in the field of military preparations for fighting "small" non-atomic wars. In addition, he will act as the final authority before the President on paramilitary operations—that twilight zone which employs underground agents, foreign factions, etc., to build United States support in the governments of other countries.

Taylor is uniquely fitted for his new White House role. With Berlin the No. 1 cold war hotspot, it is recalled that Taylor was the U.S. commander in Berlin a decade ago and experienced at first hand the Communist maneuverings to wrest that area from control of the Western powers.

He is an expert—perhaps the nation's greatest—on the needs of the U.S. military to fight small wars and to meet military aggressions short of massive retaliation. He wrote a book about it, "The Uncertain Trumpet," that deeply impressed then-Senator Kennedy, and which led more than any other one factor to his present appointment.

In the wake of the Cuban invasion fiasco, Kennedy appointed Taylor to make a study of American intelligence procedures and practices, with special eye to the Central Intelligence Agency, charged with a large measure of responsibility for the Cuban failure. He therefore has become thoroughly familiar with the principal government agency providing the intelligence material he will henceforth co-ordinate.

The most significant facet of the appointment, however, is that Kennedy apparently has seen the error of trying to make all the White House decisions himself, and has reached beyond his circle of intimate friends and political co-workers for a military staff man he so obviously needs.

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